



5-7

501.41261X00

1765

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: T. ARAI, et al.
Application No.: 10/085,063
Filed: March 1, 2002
For: FABRICATION METHOD OF SEMICONDUCTOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE
Group: 1765
Examiner: B. Tran

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 26, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2004, Applicants respectfully elect Species I, wherein "step ____" is conducted by polishing with a polishing means. While the "step" referred to in each of the species listed by the Examiner is not clear, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-16, 18-21, 23, 25-27 and 29-32 read on the elected Species I insofar as understood.

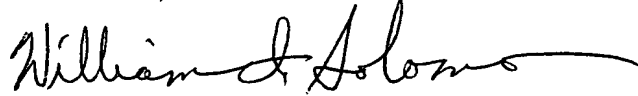
Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner indicates in the Office Action mailed March 24, 2004, that claims 1, 5, 9, 14, 21, 25 and 29-32 are generic; upon allowance of any of these generic claims, it is respectfully submitted that Species II must be re-joined in the above-identified application.

Examination of the claims reading on Species I, listed previously, in due course, is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that any shortage in the fee be charged to the account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 501.41261X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William I. Solomon
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WIS/sjg